

Calendar of Events

November - December

Meetings:

No meetings in November and December

Workshops:

October 27 - November 10, 2004

American Sign Language - Module 2

Instructors: Longfellow and Marchuk

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

DHHS CEUs: .6 - Category 1

Purdue University North Central -

Valparaiso Academic Center

600 Vale Park Rd. South

Valparaiso, IN

Contact: Phyllis Dranger at (219) 548-

2468 ext. 5101 or pdranger@pnc.edu

Nov. 5-7, 2004 - Friday-Sunday

In Depth Weekend Skillshop in

Signing Exact English

Instructors: Dennis Davino, Carol

Both, Sue Tellez, Susan Morgan

RID CEUs: 1.5 - CMP & ACET

DHHS CEUs: 1.5 - Category 1

Louisville, KY

Contact: Esther Zawolkow at 562-

430-1467 or seecenter@seecenter.org

Nov. 10, 2004 - Wednesday

*Best Practices for Educational
Interpreters*

Instructors: Josh Garrett

DHHS CEUs: .3 - Category 2

Jefferson Elementary School

Hammond, IN

Contact: Colleen Geier at 219-945-
1653

Don Shafer, Receives Sagamore of the Wabash from Governor Kernan



Don Shaffer

We have the honor to announce that Don Shaffer, the recently retired Vocational Rehabilitation- Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf Program Coordinator received the Sagamore of the Wabash from Governor Kernan's office.

The award was presented to Don to his surprise at the start of a DDARS advisory committee meeting at the Indianapolis Government Center on October 19, 2004.

It was standing room only during the few minutes of the presentation where many of Don's former colleagues from the State and Deaf and Hard of Hearing friends came to see the honor bestowed upon him. When receiving the award from Jim Van Manen, DHHS Director, he was shocked. All those who knew about it, including his wife Kay Shaffer, kept the secret well. He thought all the attendees were there for the meeting, not realizing it was him they were there to see. He mentioned how perplexed he was at seeing Kay at the back of the room before the meeting, but still had no idea what was happening. Our congratulations to Don for his career efforts in serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons in a variety of capacities both as a state employee and in private life.

Don Shaffer is the fifth Deaf or Hard of Hearing person we are aware of to have received the award since Governor Ralph Gates created the award sometime during his term between 1945 and 1949. No state records are kept concerning who receives this award. Other Deaf or Hard of Hearing recipients are: Leslie Massey; Jess Smith—two time recipient; Gale Walker, and Jerome Freeman. If you are aware of other Deaf or Hard of Hearing persons who have received the award, please inform the editor who will pass that on to us.

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*Calendar of Events**November - December*November 12-13, 2004 - Friday and Saturday*Retreat, Workshops and Annual Meeting for ASL students of ALL levels*

Time: Friday - 5:30 to 11:00 p.m.;

Saturday - 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

DHHS CEUs: .5 - Category 1

Check www.icrid.org for more information

Kratzenberg Recreation Center at the Indiana School for the Deaf Indianapolis, IN

Nov. 19, 2004 - Friday*Feed Your Eyes, Mind and Spirit*

Instructors: Debbie Rennie, Peter Cook and Myron Yoder

RID CEUs: .2 - CMP & ACET

DHHS CEUs: .2 - Category 2

Umbler Center, Goshen College Goshen, IN

Contact: Myron Yoder at (574) 535-7382 or myronry@goshen.eduNov. 19, 2004 - Friday*Deconstructing English*

Instructors: David M. Jones

DHHS CEUs: .6 - Category 1

Jefferson Elementary School Hammond, IN

Contact: Colleen Geier at 219-945-1653

December 1 - 15, 2004*American Sign Language - Module 3*

Instructors: Longfellow and Marchuk

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

DHHS CEUs: .6 - Category 1

Purdue University North Central - Valparaiso Academic Center 600 Vale Park Rd. South Valparaiso, IN

Contact: Phyllis Dranger at (219) 548-2468 ext. 5101 or pdranger@pnc.edu**National Association of the Deaf Suggestions for Filing Complaints About Television Captioning***(Article excerpted from NAD website)*

Many deaf or hard of hearing people contact the NAD with complaints about television captioning. Most of the complaints are about garbled captions, full of errors and incorrect words. Other complaints are:

- captions that disappear in the middle or toward the end of a program.
- captions that appear on some channels but not on others.
- captions that appear on a show when it is broadcast, but not on a re-run.
- captions that are covered up by weather information or other emergency messages.
- lack of captions about weather information and other emergency messages.
- networks that do not provide enough captioning.

Deaf or hard of hearing consumers need to be aggressive about making sure that captions appear on television programming. The NAD urges consumers to contact television programmers about specific captioning problems. Consumers should file complaints with the FCC if the problems are not resolved.

It is not hard to file a captioning complaint. You should contact your program provider, telling them exactly what the problem is. Send a copy of your complaint to the FCC. Some problems can be fixed easily. If the broadcaster does not fix your problem, or if you are not satisfied with what they tell you, you can file a formal complaint with the FCC. Here's how to do it:

As soon as you have a complaint about captioning, contact your video programming provider, in writing. You can find the address of your cable company or satellite company on your bill. You can find the address of a local television station by looking in the telephone directory under their call letters (for example, WJLA-TV).

What your letter should say: Explain exactly what is wrong with the captioning. For example:

- There were no captions.
- There were no captions for this show on channel X, even though there were captions for the same show on channel Y.
- The captions disappeared for the last five minutes of the show.
- The captions were blocked by an emergency message
- An emergency message was blocked by the captions
- The captions were garbled and you could not understand them.
- Tell them the date, time, program and channel you were watching.

Say that this problem is a violation of FCC rule 47 CFR §79.1. If it is a problem with an emergency caption, then say that this is a violation of FCC rule 47 CFR §79.2. Tell them your name and how to contact

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you (address, phone, email, fax).

- It is also a good idea to send a copy of the same complaint to the network that produces the program. For example, if you are not getting captions from your local CBS or ABC affiliate, you can also send a copy to the national CBS or ABC network. It is possible that the problem is with the network, rather than your local station, the cable company or the satellite company.
- Keep any responses you get from the company. They may tell you to contact another company that actually produces the program. If they do this, they must forward your complaint themselves, or give you the address of the other company. The company must respond to you within 45 days of your complaint, or within 45 days of the end of the calendar quarter in which the violation occurs, whichever is later.
- If you are not satisfied with their response, or if they do not respond to you, then you have 30 days to send a formal complaint to the FCC at this address:

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Room 6C-447
Washington, DC 20554

- a) Send three copies of your complaint to the FCC, and one copy to the company.
- b) Tell the FCC what your complaint is about.
- c) Attach a copy of your initial letter(s) to the company, and any response you received from the company.
- d) Include a statement that you have sent a copy of the formal complaint to the company.
- e) The company must respond to the FCC within 15 days, with a copy to you.

The FCC may tell you that there is nothing they can do, because the problem is not a violation of the FCC rules. For example, FCC rules do not require perfect spelling or accurate words on the captions. FCC rules do not require all programs to be captioned. The NAD believes that it is important for deaf or hard of hearing people to file these complaints anyway, so that the FCC will see what kind of problems deaf audiences have with captioning.

There are strict timelines and deadlines for you to file complaints and for the company to respond. However, if you contact the company and the FCC quickly, there should be no problem. For information about the specific deadlines and how they apply to your complaint, contact the FCC directly or consult with the NAD Law Center, NADlaw@nad.org.

(Note: The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Law and Advocacy Center prepared this material as informal guidance. This is not legal advice. The NAD assumes no liability for this material.)

How to Search for the Name of the State Legislator in Your Local Area

Do you know who your Indiana Senators or House of Representatives are in your area? If not, you can find out at the website: <http://www.in.gov/apps/sos/legislator/search/>. Follow the instructions stated on the page to start your search. Select an elected office you want to look for such as the Indiana House, Indiana Senate, U.S. House or U.S. Senate. Then type the 5 digit Zip Code corresponding to where you live. The results of your search will be listed in the right column of the screen. Click on an official's name for additional information including direct links to the official's Web site and e-mail address. Legislators have a link to their current legislation. Switch back to this window to continue your search.

DHHS Gazette**DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES**

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